

(19) **KOREAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE**

KOREAN PATENT ABSTRACTS

(11)Publication number: **1020010029463 A**
 (43)Date of publication of application: **06.04.2001**

(21)Application number: **1019997001786**
 (22)Date of filing: **03.03.1999**
 (30)Priority: **03.07.1997 US1997 887313**

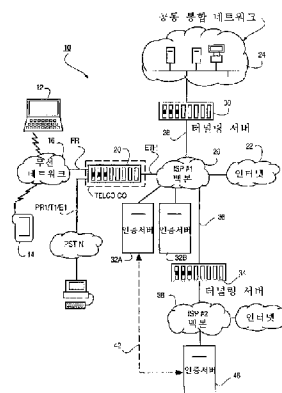
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(51)Int. Cl **H04L 29/06**

(54) **NETWORK ACCESS METHODS, INCLUDING DIRECT WIRELESS TO INTERNET ACCESS**

(57) Abstract:

A method is provided for connecting a source of digital data to a computer network. The source of digital data transmits data over a wireless transmission medium to a wireless service carrier, the wireless service carrier multiplexing the digital data onto a high speed digital telephone line. The method comprises the steps of receiving the digital data at a communications chassis such as a network access server, extracting, from the digital data, network access authentication data comprising at least one of the following: (a) a telephone number called by the source of digital data, or (b) a telephone number associated with the source of digital data; transmitting the authentication data over a local area or wide area computer network connected to a network authentication server for the computer network; determining, in the network authentication server, from the transmitted authentication data whether the remote user is permitted to access the computer network; and the authentication server responsively notifying the network access server the results of the step of determining; and authorizing the source of data to access the computer network if the step of determining results in a positive response.



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Legal Status

Date of request for an examination (19990303)

Notification date of refusal decision ()

Final disposal of an application (registration)

Date of final disposal of an application (20010728)

Patent registration number (1003080730000)

Date of registration (20010827)

Number of opposition against the grant of a patent ()

Date of opposition against the grant of a patent ()

Number of trial against decision to refuse ()

Date of requesting trial against decision to refuse ()

Date of extinction of right ()